



ROCKY MOUNTAIN COORDINATING GROUP

Bureau of Indian Affairs (Southwest, Rocky Mountain and Great Plains Regions)
Bureau of Land Management (Colorado and Wyoming)
Fish and Wildlife Service (Mountain/Prairie Region)
Forest Service (Rocky Mountain Region)
National Park Service (Intermountain and Midwest Regions)
State Agencies in Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas

Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group Meeting Sidney, Nebraska February 22 – 24, 2005

Final MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:

Lindon Wiebe
John Glenn
David Carter
Dean Clark
Tom Corbin
Ray Weidenhaft
Joe Lowe
Ross Hauck
Cal Pino
John Waconda
Darrell Ausborn
Jim Fletcher
Joyce Feeley
Sheryl Page

Members Not Present:

Don Westover

Guests:

Russ Mann

Introductions

Introductions were made.

Dean Clark will be acting for Len Dems/NPS until Lens replacement is on board.

Cal Pino will be the new representative from BIA Southwest Region.

Sheryl Page will be the Administrative Assistant to the current Chair, Lindon Wiebe. The group discussed each incoming Chair providing a person from their respective agency to assist the Chair with administrative duties. Lindon asked each member if that would be a possibility and to validate whether other alternatives should be explored. Some members had no problem but others said it wouldn't work for them and would need to explore alternatives.

USFS Update, Lindon Wiebe

The Forest Service is working on a "Pre-Mortem Paper" (What could happen if - - -) They would like to make it interagency. [If anyone is interested in seeing it, let Lindon know and he will get them the information. Lindon will provide RMCG with a draft prior to discussion at the spring meeting.](#)

Colorado is still working on the Colorado cost share principles. [John Waconda would like BIA to be involved in the principles. He will contact Bill Wallis to see if there is still time.](#)

Forest Service, Region 2 has asked the Washington office to review Fire and Aviation in Region 2 to get some help on unfunded mandates and the high expectations. The downsizing for the regional Fire and Aviation is continuing as planned.

Lindon reminded everyone they need to keep Aviation Security measures in mind.



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Fair Share, Jim Fletcher (HO-1)

Jim handed out the fair share document his office put together. The fair share is based a five year average of large fires and acres and resource orders filled. After much discussion RMCG was not sure the work load was accurate.

- RMCG asked Jim to look at it again and base the workload more on the benefiting unit.
- Jim Fletcher will do an analysis using Fire Org and RMCG can decide which analysis they prefer.

Rich Homann said the agencies need something, in black and white, to substantiate the funding, describes what we are paying for, and why we are doing a fair share analysis.

- John Glenn, Rich Homann, Ray Weidenhaft, Lindon Wiebe, Sheryl Page, Dean Clark, and Jim Fletcher will work together to develop an Executive Summary based on benefiting agency.

The next step will be to determine how agencies will pay "fair share".

RMCG Business Manager, Jim Fletcher (HO-2)

Jim Fletcher handed out the alternatives he had prepared for hiring and providing funding for the RMCG Business Manager. Each alternative was discussed and it was decided that members would give the alternatives consideration and the discussion would continue in the morning.

02/23/2005 – The alternatives were discussed again and RMCG agreed that Alternative #3 is the one they will work on.

- Alternative #3 is the preferred alternative.
This would be a collateral duty of the RMACC intelligence seasonal. The seasonal intelligence position would be upgraded to a PFT GS-7/9 level. Agencies are already contributing \$21,000 annually for this position. Last season we were unable to hire someone in the Denver area willing to work part-time for GS-5 wages. This may be an opportunity to make the Intel position more attractive as well. The GS7-9 level should provide a competent level of support for the coordinating group. The downside to this would be competition for time during periods of high fire activity. This would be a BLM FTE, the cost would be 90 days RMCG at \$18,900, and 150 days at RMACC is \$31,000 - \$21,000 (current agency contributions) which would leave a \$10,000 deficit needed to fund the position.
- States will contribute \$10,000
- National Park Service will contribute the FTE
- Some funding will be provided by the BIA, Southern Region

Executive MAC Exercise, Lindon Wiebe

The date was set for the Executive MAC exercise/meeting.

The exercise will be held at the Rocky Mountain Coordination Center conference room, beginning at 0800 on May 20, 2005. The exercise will be in the morning and the discussion in the afternoon.

RMCG wanted to be sure to set the date for next years exercise/meeting so Agency Administrators can get it on their schedule.

RMCG must assure they define for Agency Administrators what type of decisions they will be making and talk about the roles and functions of MAC and RMCG.



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FEMA, Out of Many, One, Joe Lowe (HO-3)

Joe Lowe handed out a pamphlet from FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security on All-Hazards Incident Management Team (IMT) Program. The pamphlet highlights the development of IMTs that will be available to support the management of major, complex emergencies and disasters for all agencies. More information can be found online at www.usfa.fema.gov

Type I Team, Hurricane Assignment Evaluation, All (HO-4)

RMCG discussed their role in dealing with team performance. The normal process for dealing with team performance would be for the Operations Committee to research it and make recommendations to RMCG for dealing with the issue. In this particular situation some other alternatives were discussed.

Decision: Lindon will work with the Chair of the Operations Committee on a solution for dealing with the issue and report back to RMCG. Lindon will also communicate with Region 8 what RMCG is doing about the issue and then what action will be taken.

Predictive Services, ROMAN, Jim Fletcher & Russ Mann (HO-5)

Jim Fletcher and Russ Mann (Predictive Services, RMC) gave an overview of ROMAN and made a proposal for the continued funding of it. At the present ROMAN is the only tool available that organizes and displays RAWs data but it currently has no permanent funding. RMA Predictive Services has agreed to formally take on the secondary watchdog role for RAWs weather observations output and monitoring NFDRS input and output. ROMAN is the tool they use to do that.

Decision: RMCG agreed to support the proposal and nominated Russ Mann as Regional Fire Weather Coordinator.

RMCG recommends a change to the proposal dealing with how and when a station will be taken off-line.

Russ will draft a plan and present it to RMCG at the spring meeting.

Incident Commander Assignments, Dave Carter (HO-6)

RMCG discussed the IC assignment for the Type 1 and Type 2 IMTs.

Steve Hart will retire in the spring leaving the Type 1 team without an IC.

Discussed how to deal with Pete Blume being the primary IC for the Type 2 team and a trainee ICT1.

Decision:

- Pete Blume will continue his cycle as Type 2 IC.
- RMCG recommends the Forest Service go to the Forest Supervisor and request Dave Sisk's involvement as IC for the Type 1 IMT. Lindon will make this request through the Forest Service.
- Lindon will speak to Jim Krugman about his availability as Type 1 IC.
- If neither option is a possibility RMCG could possibly pursue an IC from Eastern Great Basin.
- IC assignment will be discussed again on a conference call March 3, 2005.

RMCG discussed the lack of depth we are dealing with trying to fill team positions. There needs to be more emphasis on rotating team members and providing training and experience. There is a problem when we allow ADs and retirees to serve on teams before we use our own people.



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Team Configuration, Dave Carter (HO-7)

Members discussed the new team configuration for out-of-area assignments (27/6) and looked at the proposed alternatives and additional concerns sent from the Incident Commanders to the Operations Committee. Teams have indicated they will comply but really feel the configuration is outdated and was not well thought out. [The Operations Committee asked that RMCG write a letter to NMAC asking them to revisit the issue in the near future and give careful consideration to additional positions.](#)

Decision: A letter will be sent to NMAC when the team members have been approved and rosters are complete.

Darrell Ausborn brought up a concern with IFPM. Considering the current deadline of 2009 for IFPM, it appears there is going to be a problem getting required team assignments for everyone who needs it by 2009. Bringing in an IFPM person for a team displaces the regular trainee for that team. Also, the IFPM person has no team responsibilities because he/she is there just to get the ticket punched. Possibly, in the future, through realignment, teams could be expanded to include these IFPM people.

Award, Ray Weidenhaft

Ray will be presenting an award to Jeanette Archibeque, Rocky Basin Incident Business Committee member, at the next Committee meeting in Reno. Jeanette will be retiring before the spring meeting when the award would have normally been presented. RMCG wishes Jeanette the very best and thanks her for her many years of commitment to the Committee and Rocky Basin Incident Business.

Rocky Basin Incident Business Committee, Ray Weidenhaft

The Rocky Basin Incident Business Committee has an issue with the Forest Service representation on the Committee. Jeanette has been the Forest Service representative on the Committee but she will be retiring soon. Eastern Great Basin (EGB) feels that with their heavy Forest Service involvement that the FS representative should be from EGB and at this time there is no one qualified to fill that vacancy. The discussion is that possibly the joint committee will go back to being two independent committees.

Decision: RMCG supports the idea of revisiting the charter to see how the IBM can be held together as a joint committee.

RMCG recommends one representative from each state and one representative from each participating federal agency in the Rocky Mountain Area one representative from each participating federal agency in the Eastern Great Basin.

(Ray communicated the recommendation to EGB during a break. EGB approves of the recommendations.)

[The above changes will be added to the RM and GB Agreement and the Rocky Basin Incident Business Committee Charter.](#)

RMA Universal Ordering, Jim Fletcher (HO-8)

The RMA Dispatch Committee is seeking RMCG approval to implement Universal Ordering on a trial basis within the RMA. Universal Ordering will allow all dispatch centers in the RMA to order resources statused in ROSS directly from one another under certain parameters and rules. It will only be used during Preparedness Levels 1 and 2. Effectiveness of Universal Ordering will be monitored by the Dispatch Center Managers and the RMC Coordinator. The test period will conclude at the end of the 2005 fire season, at which time the Dispatch Committee will analyze the results and develop recommendations for 2006 operating procedures.

Decision: RMCG supports the proposal for the trial period.



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Human Resource Specialist, Lindon Wiebe (HO-9)

The Human Resource Specialist position has been approved and will be included in the next revision of PMS 310-1. The group discussed the importance of the HRSP position on large incidents. Everyone needs to get the work out to insure we are all meeting the criteria and providing support for the position.

Decision: RMCG supports the program.

This will be communicated to the ICs at the spring meeting.

It will be suggested a HRSP be ordered for each team assignment.

Dave Carter will take it to the OPS Committee for their support.

NIMS, NIMO

National Incident Management Organization (NIMO) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) were discussed. NIMO is coming and possibly as soon as this summer. There is some concern as to where the funding is coming from. **RMCG would like to be kept up to date of this issue.**

Quadrennial Fire and Fuels Review (QFR), Lindon Wiebe

The group briefly discussed this interagency study to project expectations on fire and fuels, and how we will deal with it in the future.

RMCG tasked the Fuels and Fire Use Committee to prepare something on the QFR to be presented to RMCG at the spring fire meeting. (How they see the increased work load, political pressure, etc.)

Fire Program Analysis (FPA) and Interagency Fire Program Management (IFPM) , Lindon Wiebe

RMCG will have a presentation on FPA and IFPM at the spring meeting. Everyone is getting the message that it needs to be supported but it is felt we are not getting the tools to do the job.

Criminal Liability, Lindon Wiebe

There is an OIG report out concerning Criminal Liability. Everyone needs to know when they can be put in the "criminal intent" situation. **Lindon will forward the report and any other related material to members.**
(Done)

Aviation Committee

After much discussion concerning increasing complexity of Aviation issues, **RMCG made the decision to establish an Aviation Committee. John Glenn agreed to be the RMCG liaison to the Committee. He will begin to seek nominations for members and draft a charter.**

Duty Officer, Jim Fletcher

Jim Fletcher passed out the list of Duty Officers for the 2005 season. The group discussed the duties, where to find them and talked about how informed the Duty officer needs to be. The Duty Officer roles and responsibilities are in the RMA Mob Guide and available on the web.

RMA Training Catalog, Ray Weidenhaft

Ray passed on some concerns about how and where to find Fire training courses in the RMA. Some people are having a difficult time locating fire training on the web. There used to be one site available to locate all fire training offered by each zone within the RMA.

Decision: RMCG will ask the Training Committee to assure that each zone compile and post a zone training schedule to the web. Kim Bang (GATR) will gather that information, consolidate it into one training schedule for the RMA, and it will be available on the web.



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Priority Trainee List for ICT2

Trainee List for ICT2 was reversed from the OPS List. The OPS recommends to following change:

Don Angell #1, Todd Pechota #2

[RMCG supports the recommendation to change.](#)

[Jim Fletcher will call Steve Eckert and see that the change is made to the Mobe Guide.](#)

Revised Charter, Operations Committee, Dave Carter (HO-10)

The new charter was discussed and changes and recommendations were noted. Dave Carter will get the changes to the committee, changes will be made and the charter forwarded to Lindon for final approval so the charter will be in to RMCC by the deadline for the Mobe Guide. ([Charter has been finalized, approved, signed, and send to RMCC for inclusion into the Mobe Guide](#))

Dispatch Committee Liaison

[Cal Pino will be the new RMCG Dispatch Committee Liaison.](#)

Schedule

- [Conference Call](#) – March 3, 2005 at 0930, send agenda items to Sheryl
- [Joint RM/GB Fall Meeting](#) – October 18, 19, 20 in Salt Lake City area. The exact date and location will be determined by EGB.

Miscellaneous Comments

Ray Weidenhaft wanted it noted that "Due to the absence of Bill Wallis/BLM, Colorado, the RMCG meeting was extremely productive".

[Please send any issues for the Incident Business Committee to Ray to take to the next meeting on March 14.](#)

Dave Carter – Brought up the OPS committee request, again, concerning the letter to team member supervisors, thanking them for letting their people participate on teams.

OPS is suggesting, in the future, the IC be selected in November so when teams are being filled the team members know who they will be working for.



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** Action Items from 02/22/2005** - Sidney, Nebraska					
ITEM #	ACTION ITEM 1	DUE 2	RESPONSIBLE 3	STATUS 4	PAGE 5
1.	Let Lindon know if you are interested in being involved in the "Pre-mortem Paper.	ASAP	RMCG	P	1
2.	Rework the Fair Share document based more on benefiting unit.	ASAP	Jim Fletcher	C	2
3.	Develop an Executive summary of Fair Share analysis.	ASAP	John Glenn, Rich Homann, Ray Weidenhaft, Lindon Wiebe, Sheryl Page, Dean Clark, and Jim Fletcher	P	2
4.	Work on contribution to RMCG Business Manager. - \$10000 from States - FTE, NPS - Some funding, BIA	ASAP	States, Rich Homann NPS, Dean Clark BIA, Waconda	P	2
5.	Work with the Chair of the OPS Committee to resolve the issue of team performance. Communicate with Region 8 and keep them apprised of the situation.	ASAP	Lindon Wiebe	P	3
6.	Support ROMAN and the future funding of it.	2005	RMCG	ON-GOING	3
7.	Draft a plan for Regional Fire Weather Coordinator and monitoring RAWs data.	04/04/05	Russ Mann	P	3
8.	Check with Forest Supervisor concerning Dave Sisk's involvement on Type 1 Team.	ASAP	Lindon Wiebe	C	3
9.	Check with Jim Krugman concerning his availability for the Type 1 team IC position.	ASAP	Lindon Wiebe	C	3



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10.	Discuss IC selection on conference call.	03/03/05	RMCG	C	3
11.	Send a letter to NMAC asking them to revisit and reconsider certain items for Team configuration.	Once team rosters are finalized	Lindon Wiebe	P	4
12.	Rewrite the IBM charter to reflect changes suggested by RMCG to accommodate representative from each Geographic area.	03/15/05	RM/GB Incident Business Committee	C	4
13.	Support and communicate the need to use HRSP on incidents and order for Each team assignment.	04/04/05	RMCG	P	5
	Take to the OPS Committee and ask for their support of HRSP position.	04/04/05	Dave Carter		
14.	Develop a presentation on QFR to be presented to RMCG at the spring meeting.	04/04/05	Fuels and Fire Use Committee		
15.	Forward OIG information on Criminal Intent to RMCG members.	ASAP	Lindon Wiebe	C	5
16.	Draft a charter and seek nominations for the new Aviation Committee.	ASAP	John Glenn	C	5
17.	Compile and post a zone training schedule on a web page.	ASAP	Training Committee	P	5
	Consolidate zone training, compile and post a regional training schedule on a web page.	ASAP	Kim Bang/GATR		
18.	Conference Call	03/03/05 @ 0930	RMCG	C	
19.	Spring Fire Management Meeting	04/04/05	RMCG	P	
20.	2005 RMAC Exercise	05/20/05	RMCG RMAC	P	